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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

on the Health of the
RURAL DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR
1959



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by

D. J. N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch. B., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health

and

R. A. UPSTONE, Cert.R.S.I.
Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor



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RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1959

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 MR. H. S. WRIGHT

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health:

D. J. N. McNAB, V.R.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Also Medical Officer of Health of Boroughs of Christchurch and Lymington, and an Assistant County Medical Officer for the County of Hampshire.

Address: Druitt Buildings, Christchurch, Hants.

Tel. No.: Christchurch 900.

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor:

R. A. UPSTONE, Cert.R.S.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

W. W. DYSON, Cert.R.S.I.

J. P. EMERSON, M.A.P.H.I.

D. W. SILLIFANT, M.A.P.H.I.

RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD & FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1959

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Ringwood and Fordingbridge

I submit for your information and consideration my thirteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your District.

Natural and Social Conditions:

The Rural District of Ringwood and Fordingbridge comprises a strip of country some six to nine miles wide, and sixteen miles long, along the western border of Hampshire. It includes the valley of the Avon throughout its whole course in Hampshire until it reaches the Borough of Christchurch. The terrain varies from the typical chalk downs of the north to the fertile river valley, with forest and open barren heathland on either side.

The District contains sixteen parishes and has a total area of approximately 140 square miles. There is a steadily rising population, latterly largely by immigration. The population has in fact increased by 32% since the end of the war, but by only 38% since the District was formed in 1932.

Dairy farming remains the principal industry, but there is also a major aircraft factory, a large foundry, and a considerable amount of light industry.

RAINFALL FOR 1959:

The following figures have been provided by the courtesy of the Meteorological Officer at Hurn Airport.

	ins.		ins.
January	3.69	July	2.86
February	0.29	August	2.21
March	3.67	September	0.50
April	2.50	October	3.65
May	0.65	November	4.34
June	1.43	December	7.88

TOTAL: 33.67 inches.

GENERAL STATISTICS:

AREA: 90,139 acres.

POPULATION: Registrar-General's estimate for mid-year 1959:
25,530.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES: 8,455.

RATEABLE VALUE AT 31.12.59: £349,617.

SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE: £1,391 17s. 2d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1959:

(as supplied by the Registrar-General)

			Total	Male	Female	Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District	England and Wales
LIVE BIRTHS:							
Total	...	...	358	200	158		
Legitimate	...	...	344	190	154		
Illegitimate	...	...	14	10	4		
LIVE BIRTH RATE: (Comparability Factor 1.12)							
per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	14.0	16.5
after application of comparability factor						15.7	
ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS:							
per cent. of total live births				...	...	3.9	
STILL BIRTHS:							
Total	...	...	14	6	8		
Legitimate	...	...	13	6	7		
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1		
STILL BIRTH RATE:							
per 1,000 total (live & still) births	...	...	...	...	...	37.6	20.7
TOTAL LIVE AND STILL BIRTHS: 372.							
INFANT DEATHS:							
Deaths under one year of age							
Total	...	...	4	3	1		
Legitimate	...	...	4	3	1		
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths under 4 weeks of age							
Total	...	...	3	2	1		
Legitimate	...	...	3	2	1		
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
Deaths under one week of age							
Total	...	...	3	2	1		
Legitimate	...	...	3	2	1		
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—

INFANT MORTALITY RATE:

per 1,000 live births – Total	... ..	11.2	22.0
“ “ “ “ – Legitimate	... ..	11.6	
“ “ “ “ – Illegitimate	... ..	Nil	

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Deaths under 4 weeks)

per 1,000 live births	8.4	15.8
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EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Deaths under 1 week)

per 1,000 live births	8.4	
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PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE:

(Still births & deaths under 1 week combined)

per 1,000 total (live & still) births	45.7	
---------------------------------------	--------	------	--

MATERNAL DEATHS:

(including abortion)	1	
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MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE:

per 1,000 total (live & still) births	2.7	0.38
---------------------------------------	--------	-----	------

DEATHS:	Total	Male	Female
	378	184	194

DEATH RATE: (comparability factor 0.69)

per 1,000 population	... ..	14.8	11.6
after application of comparability factor		10.2	

SPECIAL CAUSES:

Death rate per 1,000 population

Tuberculosis	... ..	0.08	0.09
Pneumonia	... ..	0.86	0.61
Influenza	... ..	0.31	0.18
Cancer (lung and bronchus)	... ..	0.16	0.46
(all causes)	... ..	2.35	2.14

COMPARATIVE VITAL STATISTICS:

(Since the District was formed in 1932)

Year	Population	Ringwood & Fordingbridge			England and Wales		
		I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.	I.M.R.	B.R.	D.R.
1932	18,400	60	15.4	12.6	65	15.3	12
1936	18,640	48	13.3	13.1	59	14.8	12.1
1940	20,430	45	14.1	13.2	55	14.6	14.3
1944	19,520	25	16.2	12.6	46	17.6	11.6
1948	22,270	28	20.3	10.8	34	17.9	10.8
1952	24,060	28	16.2	12.4	27	15.3	11.3
1955	24,760	24	13.4	15.2	24.9	15.0	11.7
1956	25,000	27	15.0	19.4	23.8	15.7	11.7
1957	25,180	30	14.6	18.9	23.0	16.1	11.5
1958	25,310	18	15.1	14.2	22.5	16.4	11.7
1959	25,530	11	14.0	14.8	22.0	16.5	11.6

CAUSES OF DEATH:

										Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory									2	—
2.	Tuberculosis, other									—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease									—	—
4.	Diphtheria									—	—
5.	Whooping Cough									—	—
6.	Meningococcal infection									—	—
7.	Acute Poliomyelitis									2	—
8.	Measles									—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases									1	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach									3	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus									3	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast									—	8
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus									—	4
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms									24	15
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia									—	1
16.	Diabetes									1	3
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system									20	45
18.	Coronary disease, angina									45	16
19.	Hypertension with heart disease									2	7
20.	Other heart disease									22	34
21.	Other circulatory disease									12	15
22.	Influenza									5	3
23.	Pneumonia									12	10
24.	Bronchitis									7	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system									1	—
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum									3	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea									—	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis									—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate									3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion									—	1
31.	Congenital malformations									1	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases									8	19
33.	Motor Vehicle accidents									4	—
34.	All other accidents									3	2
35.	Suicide									—	—
36.	Homicide and operations of war									—	—
TOTAL (All causes) ...										184	194

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE:

This was a "measles year" and the high incidence of this infection was therefore to be expected. Most of the cases occurred during the months of May and June.

Four cases of poliomyelitis occurred, and this is the highest number in any year since 1953. Three of the cases were adult males, of whom two died of respiratory paralysis; the other recovered but is left with some general weakness. The remaining case, a child of $4\frac{1}{2}$, is left with a mild paralysis. It was possible to trace a contact between the child and two of the men, principally through the local school. The other case appeared to have no contact though it was in the same part of the District. None of the cases had been immunised against poliomyelitis, and in fact the men were not at the time eligible for vaccination.

Notifications					Number
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	3
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	22
Measles	...	...	...	...	370
Poliomyelitis – Paralytic	...	...	...	...	3
Non-Paralytic	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...	...	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	18
Food Poisoning	...	...	...	...	61
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	1

TUBERCULOSIS:

					Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
					M.	F.	M.	F.	
No. on Register at 31.12.59	...	...	...	...	112	81	38	16	247
No. of new notifications	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	1	3
Transfers from other areas	...	...	...	...	4	1	—	—	5
Deaths	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	2

FOOD POISONING:

Two outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year, each in a boys' boarding school, though not the same one.

In the first outbreak in July, a large number of boys suffered from vomiting two to three hours after breakfast, which was principally cereals and milk. The milk appeared to be the cause and this was produced on the school's own farm and consumed raw. A staphylococcus aureus was grown from the milk; this is an organism which is commonly associated with milk and does not normally cause food poisoning. However at least some of the milk used at breakfast was of the previous night's milking and the organism may have proliferated overnight in unsuitable storage conditions during the hot weather, with the production of toxin. The symptoms were extremely short lived and the boys were practically well by tea time on the day of infection.

The second outbreak appeared to be due to fish cakes consumed at breakfast one Saturday in October. Boys were taken

ill over the course of the next three days and salmonella enteritidis was found to be the infecting organism. The cook was the obvious suspect and she was found to be harbouring the same organism. She was excluded from the kitchen and no further cases occurred. All the patients recovered without incident. The outbreak seemed to have been due to lack of hygienic care on the part of the cook, with whom it was difficult to communicate as she was very deaf.

LIVER FLUKE INFECTION:

Early in the year there came to light six cases of liver fluke infection among residents in the Ringwood area. This is normally a disease of sheep and cattle and is exceedingly rare among human beings in this country. The onset is insidious and in fact two of the patients were, in the first place, treated in different hospitals without a diagnosis being reached. It was only through the perseverance of a local pathologist, Dr. Facey, that the disease was eventually diagnosed.

In this condition the eggs of the fluke, *fasciola hepatica*, are passed by an infected animal and, if they fall in wet pasture, they may reach the intermediate host which is a specific snail, *limnea truncatula*. There they undergo a further stage of development and free-swimming larvae are produced which encyst on convenient vegetation. Should such vegetation be eaten the cycle is complete and the adult worm may develop in the consumer, be he animal or, very rarely, man. The cycle therefore demands a particular combination of circumstances:—fluke infected cattle, very wet conditions, the presence of the specific snail, and so far as man is concerned, vegetation to which the free-swimming larvae have access and which man will eat raw in fair quantity. By singular misfortune these conditions were present during the summer of 1958 near a small watercress bed. Cattle which it is now realised must have been fluke infected were grazed on a field adjoining the watercress bed; it was an unusually wet summer and the lower part of the pasture was waterlogged; in the later investigation the specific snail was demonstrated in mud close to the watercress bed by Mr. Pester of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine; the snail is mobile and fully capable of traversing the short distance to the bed; the watercress was cut in October and sold widely in Ringwood shops; all who suffered from the infection ate watercress at the material time and in fact the patient who had the most severe attack was habitually a heavy consumer of this commodity.

It was not possible to prove the whole of the foregoing since the incubation period of the disease is lengthy, and before it came to light in late January the original infected cattle had long been slaughtered, but calves which subsequently grazed the field were found to be lightly infected with fluke. The specific snail was found but none of the specimens discovered (it was winter) were

actually infected. No infected cress was discovered but in any case the autumn crop had long been cut.

As soon as liver fluke was diagnosed it was realised that watercress was the most likely, perhaps the only, source of human infection, and the sale of cress from the bed mentioned, which came early under suspicion, was immediately stopped by consent. No further cress from this bed was sold for a year. No new cases are known to have occurred after the original batch.

The long dry summer of 1959, the absence of cattle from the proximity of the bed, a prolonged negative feeding trial of the cress to rabbits carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service, and an assurance from the experts of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine that no further danger was anticipated, has made it possible to resume the sale from this bed.

None the less the whole incident has brought to notice the imperative necessity of the strict control of all sources of watercress, and the importance of assuring that animals do not have access to the environs of watercress beds. The combination of circumstances which gave rise to this outbreak might well be exceptional, but it could readily arise again and elsewhere. Shopkeepers should purchase their cress only from accredited sources and in particular that offered by casual salesmen, such as gipsies, often drawn from very doubtful sources, should be firmly rejected. Housewives should enquire closely into the source of supply for their own safety. Fluke infection is difficult to diagnose and may well be more prevalent, perhaps in mild degree, than is generally thought. Certainly it is an extremely unpleasant disease when of any severity, exceedingly difficult to treat with success and with a lasting effect on the health of the sufferer.

I am greatly indebted to Dr. Facey for bringing the cases to my notice, and to Professor Buckley and his staff from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, for their practical assistance and advice on this rare condition.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

1. LABORATORY FACILITIES:

The area is served by two constituent laboratories of the Public Health Laboratory Service. The one at Boscombe is under the direction of Dr. G. J. G. King, and that at Salisbury under Dr. P. J. Wormald. In each case the Directors are available as consultants in field work, in the District. The following list, kindly

supplied by Dr. King, is of specimens from this district examined at the Boscombe Laboratory.

Milk	...	...	...	...	...	58
Food	...	...	...	...	...	16
Water	...	...	...	...	...	25
Nose and throat	...	...	...	...	...	2
Faeces and Urine	...	...	...	...	...	13
Other Human	...	...	...	...	...	4
Veterinary	...	...	...	...	...	30
Other Sanitary	...	...	...	...	...	33
						<hr/> 181 <hr/>

2. HOSPITALS:

Hospital facilities are provided by the Regional Hospital Board.

Fordingbridge Cottage Hospital	
Fordingbridge Infirmary	} aged and chronic sick.
St. Leonard's Hospital	

The majority of patients requiring hospital treatment go to Bournemouth or Salisbury.

Cases of infectious disease go to Alderney Hospital, Poole. Respiratory paralysis in poliomyelitis is transferred to the special unit at Portsmouth Infectious Diseases Hospital.

3. TUBERCULOSIS:

The clinic facilities for the treatment, prevention and after-care of this infection are provided jointly by the Regional Hospital Board and the County Council. Chest Physicians hold joint appointments and specialist health visitors are provided by the County Council. The clinics for this area are unchanged. Cases south of Fordingbridge come under the Chest Physician at Christchurch, Dr. Stuart Robertson, and those in the northern part of the area under Dr. J. S. Harper, Chest Physician at Salisbury.

A voluntary Care and After Care Committee covers the area served by the Christchurch Clinic, i.e., the major part of this District together with the Boroughs of Christchurch and Lymington and a small part of New Forest Rural District. The Committee, under the Chairmanship of Lady Manners, is widely representative and much devoted work is carried out, both in the collection of funds and in personal service to patients.

4. MASS RADIOGRAPHY:

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Ringwood and some factories in the District during the year. In addition, the small 100 mm. Odelca Unit was sited in the towns of Ringwood and Fordingbridge twice monthly for the convenience of family doctors, and also paid visits to smaller factories and institutions where the use of the major unit would not have been justified.

The following is a summary of the numbers X-rayed, provided by the courtesy of Dr. Robertson.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

Site	Adults		Schoolchildren		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Ringwood	789	1046	139	102	2076
Wellworthy (Ringwood)	430	39	—	—	469
Hurn	1787	181	—	—	1968
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3006	1266	139	102	4513
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

100m.m. ODELCA UNIT

Site	Adults		Schoolchildren		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Fordingbridge (G.P. Sessions)	15	44	4	3	66
Ringwood (G.P. Sessions)	50	82	4	—	136
Hurn	101	—	—	—	101
Airport Industrial ...	53	5	—	—	58
Fordingbridge School ...	3	11	76	58	148
St. Leonard's Hospital ...	28	89	—	—	117
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	250	231	84	61	626
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL:

1. AMBULANCE SERVICES:

The Ambulance Service in the area is run from a Main Station at "Hillcroft," New Street, Lymington. There is a sub-station at Christchurch, and further sub-stations at Ringwood and New Milton, but in order that calls can be properly correlated, all requests for transport have to be made to the Main Station — Telephone Number Lymington 2331.

2. NURSING SERVICES:

The Nursing Services are administered locally by the District Health Sub-Committee.

Details of Nurses and their areas:—

NORTHERN NURSING AREA

District served.	Name and Address.	Service.
Woodgreen, Hale, Charford and Godshill.	Miss E. Bromley, Avon View, Woodgreen, Fordingbridge. <i>Tel.</i> Breamore 255	NURSE/MIDWIFE
	Miss H. M. Casey, 2, Lower Bartons, Fordingbridge. <i>Tel.</i> Fordingbridge 2157	HEALTH VISITOR
Breamore and Whitsbury.	Miss E. Bromley.	NURSE/MIDWIFE
	Miss I. C. Durley, Nurse's House, Whitsbury Road, Fordingbridge. <i>Tel.</i> Fordingbridge 3185	HEALTH VISITOR
Fordingbridge (part of) Burgate, Rockbourne, Damerham, Martin, Sandleheath, Ashford, Highfield, Midgham, and Bleakhill.	Miss I. C. Durley.	NURSE/MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR
Fordingbridge (part of) Bickton, Blissford, Frogham, Hyde, Hungerford, North and South Gorley, Harbridge, Harbridge Green, Plumley.	Miss H. M. Casey.	NURSE/MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR

SOUTHERN NURSING AREA

Ringwood (part of) Hightown, Moortown, Kingston, Lower Kingston, Bisterne, Upper and Lower Bisterne, Crow & Crow Hill, Foulford.	Miss R. Howick, 55, Manor Road, Ringwood. <i>Tel.</i> Ringwood 565	NURSE/MIDWIFE
	Mrs. E. E. Arnold, 1/, Kingsway, Ferndown, Dorset. <i>Tel.</i> Ferndown 318	HEALTH VISITOR

District served.	Name and Address.	Service.
Ringwood (part of) Blashford, Ellingham, Ibsley, Mockbeggar, Linwood, Rock- ford, Poulner, Highwood, Linford and Shobley.	Miss M. Hoffman, Northfield, Pouiner, Ringwood. <i>Tel.</i> Ringwood 673	NURSE/MIDWIFE
	Mrs. E. E. Arnold.	HEALTH VISITOR
Ringwood (part of) St. Leonards and St. Ives, Ashley, Ashley Heath, Nea Heath, Harefield, Somerley, Matchams Estate.	Miss M. Pierssene, Ferndale Villa, St. Ives, Ringwood. <i>Tel.</i> Ringwood 319	NURSE/MIDWIFE
	Mrs. E. E. Arnold.	HEALTH VISITOR
Burley, Picket Post, Thorney Hill and Holmsley.	Mrs. A. M. Powell, Nurse's Cottage, Campden House, Burley. <i>Tel.</i> Burley 3185	NURSE/MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR
District served.	Name and Address.	Service.
Bransgore, Cuckoo Hill, Sop- ley, Ripley, Avon. Winkton, Bockhampton, Waterditch, Godwinscroft, Neacroft.	Miss H. Winder, Nurse's Cottage 2, Meyrick Close, Bransgore, nr. Christchurch. <i>Tel.</i> Bransgore 505	NURSE/MIDWIFE AND HEALTH VISITOR
Hurn.	Mrs. G. Cox, 48, Walcott Avenue, Christchurch. <i>Tel.</i> Christchurch 1160	MIDWIFE
	Miss D. Powell, 83, The Grove, Christchurch. <i>Tel.</i> Christchurch 1967	NURSE
	Mrs. M. A. Tate, 3, Warren Edge Road, Southbourne. <i>Tel.</i> Bournemouth 47407	HEALTH VISITOR
Burton.	Miss M. Ellwood, 2, Rothesay Drive, Highcliffe, Christchurch. <i>Tel.</i> Highcliffe 3426	MIDWIFE
	Miss K. Ella, 13, Edward Road, Somerford, Christchurch. <i>Tel.</i> Christchurch 2225	NURSE
	Mrs. M. A. Tate.	HEALTH VISITOR

3. HOME HELP SERVICE:

The Home Help Service is under the local administration of the District Health Sub-Committee.

The Divisional Organiser is Miss M. P. Stevens, Druitt Buildings, Christchurch. Telephone: Christchurch 900.

4. CHILD WELFARE CLINICS:

Child Welfare Centre.	Place.	Time.
Breamore.	Woodgreen Hall.	First Thursday in month at 2.30 p.m.
Fordingbridge.	Victoria Rooms.	First and Third Tuesdays in month at 2.30 p.m.
Ringwood.	Conway Hall.	Every Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.
St. Leonards	District Hall, Braeside Road.	Fourth Tuesday in month at 2.30 p.m.
(New Clinic — commenced March, 1960).		
Bransgore.	Village Hall.	Second and Fourth Fridays in month at 2.30 p.m.
Burley.	Myrtle Hall.	Second and Fourth Wednesdays in month at 2.30 p.m.

The Hurn Clinic closed in November, 1959.

5. SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES:

School medical inspections are carried out periodically by Assistant County Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Special clinics are held at the County Council Health Centre, Christchurch, and at the County Council Dental Clinic in Ringwood.

6. SMALLPOX VACCINATION:

This is carried out free of charge by family doctors and at Child Welfare Clinics. The records are maintained by the County Medical Officer. Family doctors may, and normally do, charge for certificates of vaccination.

195 primary vaccinations and 93 re-vaccinations were reported. 45.2% of babies under twelve months were vaccinated, which is a reduction on last year's low figure and the second lowest percentage in the whole County. The figure compares most unfavourably with the County average of 65.6%.

7. IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

This scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is carried out by family doctors and, at Child Welfare Centres and schools, by Assistant County Medical Officers.

There was a considerable fall in the number immunised for the first time and in those receiving reinforcing doses. This is not particularly surprising in view of the poliomyelitis campaign and also, at least to some extent, the reduction in the birth rate whereby 24 fewer babies were born in 1959 than in 1958.

1959.

Immunisations completed under 5 years of age ...	205
Immunisations completed over 5 years of age ...	47
	<hr/> 252 <hr/>
Refresher Doses	360
Immunisation against Whooping Cough alone ...	9
Proportion of children born in previous 12 months immunised	47%

Number of children in the District on 31.12.59 who have completed a course of diphtheria immunisation at any time between 1st January, 1945, and 31st December, 1959:

Age on 31.12.59 i.e., born in year)	Under 1 1959	1 - 4 1955-1958	5 - 9 1950-1954	10 - 14 1945-1949	Total
<i>A.</i> Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1955-1959	62	882	1229	1025	3198
<i>B</i> Number of children who have completed course (primary or booster) in the period 1945-1954	—	—	473	1223	1696

8. POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION:

This scheme is administered locally and the records maintained by your Medical Officer of Health on behalf of the County Medical Officer. Treatment is largely carried out by family doctors but it can also be obtained at Child Welfare Centres. County Council medical staff are available for mass vaccination at factories, business premises, or special sessions. Special sessions were for example held at Ringwood Secondary School, and a monthly open clinic

has been held in the evening at the County Council Dental Clinic in Ringwood.

1959.

Number who received primary course of 2 doses	...	3,946
Number who received third doses	... ..	2,337

SCHOOLS:

Modernisation of our schools continues. There remain seven schools with bucket sanitation but, in at least three, building works are proceeding or impending at the time of writing.

The new Ringwood Secondary School was completed at the beginning of the year and the remainder of the pupils were transferred in February. The former premises of the Secondary School were constituted a new County Junior School and occupied by the Junior department of the Ringwood C. of E. School in April.

School meals are available at all schools.

WATER SUPPLIES:

The District is supplied with water from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company whose principal works are in the Borough of Christchurch, where the supply is taken from the River Avon. In 1957 the Company developed an additional source from deep boreholes in the chalk at Hale Park and this now supplies most of this District. In the first place the borehole water was found to have a corrosive effect on zinc and copper pipes owing to the presence of dissolved carbon dioxide. After experiment the Company evolved an aeration plant which came into operation early in 1959 and which is efficiently removing the carbon dioxide, rendering the water non-corrosive.

A fourth borehole has been sunk with a view to providing adequate stand-by supplies but, unfortunately, the water has been found to contain an excess of iron in solution. Before this water can be used iron removal plant will have to be provided, and the Company is at present carrying out experiments on a pilot plant. Meantime the water is not going into public supply.

In the Breamore area there are still many houses not connected to the available public supply. Some small mains extensions have been carried out by the Estate.

During the year 24 samples of water were taken from sources of supply other than the mains; 6 of these were found to be unsatisfactory.

The Water Company's records show 7,450 dwellings to be supplied direct from the mains, and there are in addition 33 huts supplied through central meters.

A typical result of an examination of a sample of the treated water from the Hale borehole is shown below:—

THE COUNTIES PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES
ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER RECEIVED ON 27.7.59 FROM
WEST HAMPSHIRE WATER COMPANY

Chemical Results in Parts per Million

Appearance:	Bright with a few particles.	Colour:	Nil.
Turbidity:	Less than 3.	Odour:	Slightly chlorinous.
pH:	7.9.	Free Carbon Dioxide:	5.
Electric Conductivity:	460.	Dissolved Solids	
Chlorine present as Chloride:	16.	dried at 180°C.:	305.
Hardness: Total ...	270.	Carbonate ...	225.
		Non-carbonate ...	45.
Nitrate Nitrogen:	4.9.	Nitrite Nitrogen:	Absent.
Ammoniacal Nitrogen:	0.054.	Alkalinity as	
Albuminoid Nitrogen:	0.000.	Calcium Carbonate:	225.
Oxygen Absorbed:	0.00.	Residual Chlorine:	0.17.
Metals:	Iron ... 0.03.	Zinc, Copper and Lead ...	Absent.

BACTERIOLOGICAL RESULTS

Number of colonies developing on Agar	1 day at 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20–22°C.
	0 per ml. Present in	0 per ml. Absent from	0 per ml. Probable number
Presumptive Coliform reaction	– ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Bact. coli. (Type 1) ...	– ml.	100 ml.	0 per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii reaction ...	– ml.	100 ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, on the alkaline side of neutrality and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is hard in character but not to an excessive degree and it contains no excess of mineral constituents. It is of very satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL:

The Ringwood Sewage Works are unchanged. Acute difficulties continue to be experienced with the disposal of the settled effluent by land irrigation.

It has now been decided to extend the Ringwood sewerage system to the outlying parts of the town and to those areas of the town not previously sewered. This enlarged scheme, together with the necessary reconstruction of the sewage disposal works, is now in the course of submission to the Minister.

The Fordingbridge scheme continues to operate satisfactorily.

Sewage disposal at some Council Estates is still causing difficulty.

The new Christchurch sewage disposal works in Stony Lane are expected to be in commission by the Autumn of 1960. The proposal to drain the Burton and Winkton area into the new works has been agreed with Christchurch Corporation, and tenders will shortly be invited for the laying of sewers throughout the area.

Your Consultants have been instructed to report on schemes for the sewerage of Bransgore, Burley and St. Leonards.

MILK AND DAIRIES:

Milk production in the area is supervised by officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Retail Distribution is supervised by officers of this Council. Pasteurisation plants are the responsibility of the County Council and on its behalf your officers supervise the one plant which exists in the District. Samples are sent regularly to the Laboratory to check the efficiency of the pasteurisation. The plant is satisfactorily operated.

The following details of milk production in the District have been kindly supplied by the Divisional Executive Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Parish	T.T.	Undesignated	Registered Producers
Martin	8	2	10
Rockbourne	11	—	11
Whitsbury	4	—	4
Breamore	15	—	15
Hale	9	—	9
Woodgreen	3	—	3
Damerham	9	2	11
Fordingbridge	44	1	45
Harbridge and Ibsley	14	—	14
Ellingham	14	1	15
St. Leonards and St. Ives	10	—	10
Ringwood	31	1	32
Burley	10	—	10
Hurn	5	1	6
Sopley	26	—	26
Christchurch East	29	1	30
	<hr/> 242	<hr/> 9	<hr/> 251

The following table shows the fall in the number of registered producers in recent years which is in keeping with the national trend. 96·4% of producers now hold T.T. licences.

	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959
Registered Producers	281	275	261	256	251
Holders of T.T. Licences	220	242	245	240	242

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS:

The County Council is the sampling authority and the following report on sampling within this District has been kindly supplied by Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Sampling Officer:—

During the year ended the 31st March, 1960, 126 samples of food and drugs were procured within the area. This number included 114 samples of milk — 30 being of the Channel Islands variety. Seven of the latter were unsatisfactory due to deficiencies

of fat, and these affected two producers. Related "appeal-to-cow" samples showed the poor quality of the milk to be due to natural causes, but in the case of milk sold under the description "Channel Islands" the appropriate limit of 4 per cent. of fat constitutes a minimum standard. The matter was taken up with both the persons concerned and subsequent checks have proved to be up to the required limit.

12 samples of articles other than milk were procured and only one was the subject of adverse report. This concerned a sponge cake to which a notice was applied stating it to be made with butter. Analysis showed only 1 per cent. of butter fat to be present and this was not regarded as sufficient to warrant the description. The confectioner responsible was warned in respect of this sample.

As applies in other Districts of the County, attention was also given to the labelling and descriptions of food and drugs to ensure that they complied with the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy and Medicines Act.

FOOD AND FOOD PREMISES:

Slow progress was made in the systematic survey of food premises, largely owing to the heavy calls on your inspectors' time in connexion with slum clearance.

No prosecutions were instituted under the Food Hygiene Regulations.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE:

The Ringwood slaughter house continued to be used by a local butchers' association. For the first time since the association assumed control there was a fall in the number of animals slaughtered during the year, due to a reduction in the number of calves killed. The total of 4,940 was however only 280 below last year's record figure.

The condition of the slaughter house is unchanged and a great deal of money would have to be spent on it before it could hope to comply with the new Slaughter House Regulations. The existing buildings are old and congested and set among shop and residential property in the town centre. On these grounds the butchers' association is not prepared to incur the expenditure which would be involved and it is expected that the use of the premises as a slaughter house will shortly cease.

MEAT INSPECTION:

All carcasses are examined by your Inspectors. The total amount of meat condemned showed a welcome reduction, by over

1 ton. 13 cwt., from last year's high figure. 2 tons 16 cwt. was in fact condemned, of which 7 cwt. was due to tuberculosis.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1959

	Cattle exc. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	431	14	832	821	2842	—
Number inspected	431	14	832	821	2842	—
ALL DISEASE EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	1	1	30	—	12	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	36	9	5	23	148	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.5	71.4	4.2	2.8	5.6	—
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	69	—
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	—	—	—	—	2.4	—
CYSTICERCOSIS:						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	27	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration ...	27	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally con- demned	—	—	—	—	—	—

HOUSING:

The rate of Council house building showed an abrupt fall due at least in part to the Credit Squeeze and the Minister's consequent reluctance to approve development on a large scale. There have been difficulties in obtaining suitable sites.

Private construction on the other hand increased by 50% over the previous year.

In view of the decrease in Council building the number of families in hutted accommodation was reduced more slowly than had been hoped and by the end of the year only 22 had been housed, leaving 33 still in huts. 31st December, 1960, remains the deadline for closure of the huts, but there still remain a few families whose rehousing would present an acute problem to any housing authority.

No. on Housing Waiting List 31.12.59	...	...	...	283
(including hut occupants)				
No. of Council Houses completed in 1959	...	...	...	20
No. of Private houses completed in 1959	...	...	...	246

Dwellings administered by the Council at 31.12.59:

Permanent houses	...	...	...	1,014
Prefabs	...	...	...	50
Huts (family units)	...	...	...	33

GIPSY CAMPS:

There has been no material change in the camps in the District.

PROBLEM FAMILIES MEETINGS:

Four further meetings of officials and voluntary workers concerned with difficult families were held under my Chairmanship. A progressive improvement was noted in a substantial number of cases and certain families were submitted to the Housing Committee for favourable consideration, who at one time would have been considered hopeless. The work of the Health Visitors and of the Social Workers on the County Welfare staff deserves to be commended.

The meetings continue to serve a useful purpose in co-ordinating effort and in the exchange of information.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 (SECTION 47):

Two old women were considered for action but in neither case was it considered that compulsory removal was justified.

HURN AIRPORT:

The airport continues to be used for diversion purposes in addition to its normal use for flight testing, flying training, ground control instruction and internal flights — notably to the Channel Islands. A car ferry service to France is now in operation.

Dr. D. MacIntyre who has acted as an emergency port medical officer for many years retired, and these duties are now carried out by Dr. G. W. Pope, Dr. T. J. Barnett and myself.

Though there were a considerable number of diversions during the year few required the presence of a medical officer. They are shown in the following table:—

ARRIVALS, 1959.

Month	No. of aircraft	No. of crew	No. of passengers
January ...	6	39	202
February ...	2	16	157
March ...	1	8	46
November ...	2	15	73
December ...	2	16	85
TOTAL	13	94	563

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS:

The only public swimming bath in the District is an open air pool situated in Ringwood and run by the Parish Council. The bath measures 25 yards by 12 yards and holds 95,000 gallons. The water is drawn from the mains of the West Hampshire Water Company and is not changed throughout the season, which normally extends from 1st May to the end of September. However, it is necessary to top up the pool twice weekly owing to evaporation and overspill into the channels and it is suggested that in effect this topping up may result in a change of water as often as four times in the season. The water in the pool is subjected to continuous circulation, filtration using a coagulent, aeration, and chlorination, with a complete turnover every twelve hours. Residual chlorine to the extent of 0·8 parts per million is the aim and this is checked twice daily by means of a colorimeter. The use of the bath is limited to 150 bathers at one time, though on a peak day as many as 500 may bathe. Sanitary facilities, showers, and access foot baths are provided.

GENERAL REMARKS:

The health of the District was satisfactory throughout the year.

The incidence of notifiable disease showed a moderate increase.

The estimated population increased by 220 to 25,530 though deaths exceeded births by 20.

The birth rate fell and even after correction is still lower than the national figure.

The infant mortality rate is the lowest ever recorded in the District.

The death rate increased slightly and the corrected figure remains well below the national average.

The slum clearance programme is making steady progress and the number of hut dwellers is being reduced, though less rapidly than had been hoped. A few families present a special problem.

In conclusion, I wish again to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their kindness and consideration, my colleagues in other departments for their advice and assistance, and in particular Mr. Upstone and his Staff for their pleasant co-operation.

D. J. N. McNAB,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1960.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1959 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

Part 1 of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors):

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	—	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	125	2	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	148	2	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	1	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	1	—	—	—

Part VIII of the Act OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in Aug. list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel (Making, etc.)	21	—	—	—	—	—

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF
RINGWOOD AND FORDINGBRIDGE

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Surveyor

FOR THE YEAR

1959

Public Offices,
Ringwood.

June, 1960.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Rural District Council of Ringwood and Fordingbridge

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my report as your Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor dealing with the work carried out by my Department during the year 1959.

SUMMARY OF VISITS AND INSPECTIONS:

Housing Acts	1,077
Rent Act	31
Dangerous Buildings	17
Moveable Dwellings	466
Gipsy Camps	9
Nuisances and Complaints	457
Water Supplies	71
Meat and Other Foods	557
Knackers Yard	6
Food and Drugs	187
Watercress Beds	17
Milk and Dairies	44
Shops Act	16
Factories Act	4
Notifiable Infectious Diseases	21
Food Poisoning	7
National Assistance Act	—
Rodent Control	3,174
Ringwood Sewerage	68
Fordingbridge Sewerage	90
Trade Effluents	6
Public Cleansing	270
Other Services administered by Council ...	209
Petroleum and Carbide	190
Building Byelaws	3,304
New Street Byelaws	58
Town and Country Planning	676
Housing Sites	63
Estate Maintenance	3,492
Small Dwellings (Acquisition) Act	146
Housing (Financial Provisions) Act	23
Legal Proceedings	25
Diversion of Footpaths	—
Land Charges	50
Air Raid Shelters	—
Unclassifiable Inspections	70
	<hr/>
	14,901

HOUSING

SLUM CLEARANCE :

The work of dealing with houses unfit for human habitation proceeded throughout the year. The detailed survey of these houses continued to be confined to the Parish of Ringwood so that persons likely to be displaced as a result of demolition and clearance area orders might be rehoused on the new estate at Poplar Way.

During the year thirty-four unfit houses in this Parish were reported upon to the Housing Committee, twenty-three were dealt with by Demolition Orders, four by Closing Orders and two by Undertakings to keep vacant; proposals to make fit were accepted in respect of four dwellings; action was deferred in respect of one cottage occupied by an aged, blind widow.

A total of seventy-one unfit houses in the Parish of Ringwood (including twenty-eight in 1958) have been dealt with under this programme.

A terrace of three cottages at Ashley, Ringwood (Parish of St. Leonards and St. Ives) was dealt with as a Clearance Area.

The seven cottages in the Martin Clearance Area were demolished and the Minister confirmed the Clearance Order in respect of ten cottages at Kings Arms Lane, Ringwood.

Sixty-three unfit dwellings in the rural district, the subject of Clearance Orders, Closing Orders, Demolition Orders or Undertakings under the Housing Acts, were still occupied at the time the allocation of Poplar Way dwellings was considered in September.

The Housing Committee resolved that no dwelling should be considered fit for human habitation unless provided with a proper drainage system and that the bucket under the sink system could not now be accepted as proper drainage.

During the year a total of one hundred and thirty-four houses were inspected and reports made to the Housing Committee in respect of fifty-one houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being made fit.

The following summary shows the number of dwellings dealt with by demolition, closing and repair under the Housing and Public Health Acts for the years 1954–1959 inclusive:—

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
1. Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	26	11	5	25	8	1
1A. Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ...	5					
2. Houses included in Clearance Areas	3	10	7	—	—	—
3. Houses demolished	8	7	7	2	5	8
4. Houses in respect of which undertakings to make fit accepted	5					

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
5. Unfit houses closed on undertakings	2	11	14	8	1	4
6. Unfit houses made fit						
(a) by informal action ...	23	32	28	26	24	7
(b) by formal action ...	5	3	—	1	3	—

A total of 609 visits and inspections were made including 272 for the purpose of ascertaining Permitted Numbers of Houses under Section 81 of the Housing Act, 1957.

RENT ACT, 1957:

Seven applications for Certificates of Disrepair were dealt with during the year. In one instance the landlord submitted an undertaking to carry out repairs; four Certificates of Disrepair were issued. Thirty-one inspections were made under this Act.

DANGEROUS BUILDINGS:

Action under Section 58 of the Public Health Act was necessary in two instances; one of these involved a public building in Ringwood and a Court Order was obtained requiring demolition within ten days. This was complied with.

IMPROVEMENTS AND CONVERSIONS:

The House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, came into operation on the 14th June. The Act introduced a new system of standard grants supplementary to the existing system of improvement grants and some changes were effected in the latter to render the grants more attractive to owners.

The new standard grants are available up to a maximum of £155 towards the cost of installing baths, water closets, wash hand basins, hot water supply and food stores in dwellings which lack them. The improvement or discretionary grants up to a maximum of £400 cover modernisation works, the range and cost of which fall outside the limits for standard grants, as well as conversions.

To qualify for a standard grant, a house must after improvement be provided with the five 'standard amenities', but if already provided with some of these a grant can be claimed towards the cost of installing the remainder. The 'standard amenities' and maximum grants applicable to each are:—

(a) Fixed bath or shower in a bathroom	£25
(b) Wash hand basin	£5
(c) Hot water supply connected to sink, bath and basin	£75
(d) Water closet in or contiguous to the house	£40
(e) Satisfactory facilities for storing food	£10

In April the Council resolved to make an administrative charge and applicants for discretionary grants are required to pay a fee of £2 2s. at the time of submitting applications and a further

£8 8s. after acceptance of the Council's offer of a grant. At the same time it was resolved to discontinue the practice of paying such grants by instalments and to insist upon applications being supported by competitive tenders.

110 preliminary enquiries were received during the year — 75 in respect of discretionary grants and 35 in respect of standard grants.

27 formal applications for discretionary grants were approved for 30 units of accommodation including the conversion of stables into two flats and a house into two flats, involving a total grant of £9,020. 37 applications for standard grants were approved involving a total maximum grant of £5,049.

It will be seen that more applications for standard grants were dealt with during the six months the scheme was in operation than for discretionary grants during the whole year.

The following table indicates the number of 'standard amenities' to be provided as a result of the grants made.

	Standard Grants	Discretionary Grants
Baths	33	29
Wash hand basins	35	30
Hot Water supply	34	30
Water closets	28	30
Food Stores	21	19

At the 31st December, 1959, the total discretionary grants made by the Council since the inception of the scheme amounted to £41,157 allowing for grants withdrawn or repaid.

346 visits and inspections were made in respect of discretionary grants and 122 in respect of standard grants.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS:

Number of licences for sites on register	16 (206 dwellings)
Number of licences (other than sites) ...	107 (131 dwellings)
Applications for site licences approved during the year	2
Applications for site licences refused during the year	2
Applications for individual licences approved during the year	39
Applications for individual licences refused during the year	2

The Council agreed to institute proceedings in connection with the unauthorised use of a site for moveable dwellings but Court action proved unnecessary.

GIPSY CAMPS:

Nine inspections of sites were made during the year.

COMPLAINTS:

107 complaints were received during the year involving a total of 457 visits and inspections; details are as follows:—

Nature of Nuisance	Complaints Received	Number of visits
Insanitary conditions	16	24
Dangerous Buildings	4	17
Unsatisfactory and insufficient water supplies	1	10
Dust, effluvia or smoke	2	13
Fly infestations	3	11
Offensive smells	8	45
Offensive accumulations	4	10
Offensive ditches	8	52
Cesspools and drains	23	203
Food and Drugs	9	10
Milk and Dairies	—	—
Animals	12	32
Moveable Dwellings	10	20
Miscellaneous	7	10
	<hr/> 107	<hr/> 457

Twelve Statutory Notices were served under Section 39 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and one under Section 50. Statutory action was approved under Sections 92–93 in two instances but the nuisances were abated and further action proved unnecessary.

A warning that proceedings might be instituted under the Clean Air Act, 1956, was issued to a firm of metal workers in Ringwood in respect of the burning of rubber tyres.

WATER SUPPLIES

Number of samples collected	24
Number of visits and inspections (excluding visits made following complaints) ...	71

BREAMORE:

The last twelve dwellings at Breamore with unsatisfactory water supply and in respect of which Statutory Notices were served last year, was connected to the main supply.

LOWER DAGGONS, DAMERHAM:

The work of laying the 1" water service pipe to individual standpipes at six cottages was completed in November. The occupants of these cottages had been without any form of water supply and formerly obtained water from a polluted well across a field.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The first two Codes of Practice to be published by the Ministry under Section 13 of the Food and Drugs Act were issued at the end of the year and relate to the Meat Trade and to the Transport and Handling of Meat.

SLAUGHTER HOUSE:

The Ringwood Slaughter House remains under the control and operation of the local Butchers' Association.

New Regulations regarding hygiene and prevention of cruelty came into force on the 1st January, 1959, and a sub-committee was appointed to meet representatives of the Butchers' Association regarding the application of these to the Ringwood Slaughter House.

The Slaughterhouse (Reports) Direction 1959 requires the submission of a report to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food before November, 1960, on the existing and probable requirements of the District for slaughtering facilities.

MINISTRY OF FOOD FATSTOCK GUARANTEE SCHEME DEADWEIGHT CERTIFICATION OF PIGS:

The Ministry of Food continues to use the Ringwood Slaughter House as a Deadweight Certification Centre with the Council's Meat Inspectors acting as Certifying Officers.

The following table shows the details of the Certificates issued since the scheme came into operation:—

	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954
Certificates issued	527	708	572	470	445	167
Number of pigs covered by						
Certificates	1,710	2,245	1,713	1,357	1,289	412

ANIMAL CARCASSES:

Inspections are made of all animals slaughtered involving the detailed examination of carcasses and offal. 542 visits were made for this purpose.

The total number of carcasses inspected at the Slaughter House was 4,940, made up as follows:—

Cattle, excluding Cows	431
Cows	14
Calves	832
Sheep	821
Pigs	2,842
	<hr/>
	4,940

As a result of these examinations 6,269 lbs. of meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption; diseases and weights were:—

Disease or Condition	Weight in lbs.
Pyrexia	868
Tuberculosis	785
Immaturity	740
Emaciation	405
Pyæmia	374
Parasitic	307
C. Bovis	285
Septicæmia	277
Abscess	265
Septic Metritis	226
Distomatosis	204
Arthritis	188
Leukaemia	187
Swine Erysipelas	154
Jaundice	154
Cirrhosis	129
Oedema	113
Bruising	105
Toxaemia	104
Enteritis	98
Septic Pneumonia	55
Actinomycosis	55
Bact. Necrosis	31
Telangiectasis	25
Congestion	24
Tumour	23
Pleurisy	21
Peritonitis	19
Fatty Degeneration	14
Pneumonia	10
Fracture	7
Pericarditis	6
Fatty Infiltration	5
Cysts	4
Cloudy Swelling	2
	<hr/>
	6,269

In addition 13,644 lbs. of beef affected with C. Bovis was released for human consumption after the requisite period in cold storage (21 days).

The following summary shows the total number of carcasses inspected and the amounts of meat condemned each year since 1950.

				No. of carcasses	Condemned Meat (lbs.)
1959	...	...	...	4,940	6,269
1958	...	...	...	5,220	10,037
1957	...	...	...	4,383	4,932
1956	...	...	...	3,833	8,513½
1955	...	...	...	3,344	9,962
1954	...	...	...	4,811	10,254
1953	...	...	...	4,385	21,452
1952	...	...	...	4,166	25,458
1951	...	...	...	3,232	35,911
1950	...	...	...	3,714	50,307

OTHER FOODS:

Fifteen visits were made in connection with the examination of foodstuffs at food shops and stores, the quantities found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered were as follows:—

Meat	...	...	19 tins
			106 lbs. beef
			14 lbs. gammon
Fruit	...	...	12 tins
			480 lbs. pears
Vegetables	...		5 tins
Soup	...	...	2 tins
Pickles	...	...	9 jars

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS:

Under the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, and the Amendment Act, 1954, six licences were issued to slaughtermen. One knacker's yard licence was renewed and the slaughterhouse licence was renewed until the 31st March, 1960, and subsequently extended to the 30th June, 1960.

FOOD AND DRUGS:

Six complaints were investigated with a view to prosecutions under Section of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 — brass wire in cereal food, foreign matter in cheese spread and loaves of bread, bad eggs and contaminated apples. After careful consideration the Council decided to institute proceedings in the case of the cereal food.

FOOD HYGIENE:

21 premises were inspected under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and eleven informal notices were served.

The following table shows action taken since the Regulations came into operation on the 1st January, 1956:—

	1959	1958	1957	1956
Premises inspected	21	28	68	65
Informal notices served ...	11	5	63	64
Notices complied with ...	—	5	11	3

One Certificate of Exemption was issued in respect of wash basin facilities.

FOOD PREMISES:

160 inspections including those under the Food Hygiene Regulations were made in connection with food premises as follows:—

	No. on Register	Inspections
Food Shops	155	14
Bakehouses	13	9
Restaurant Kitchens	42	23
Ice Cream Premises (Sec. 16)	99	27
Preserved Food Premises (Sec. 16) ...	16	1
Licensed Premises	51	5
Market Stalls	—	64
General		40
Mobile Vans		3
Other Stalls		1
		<hr/> 187

WATERCRESS BEDS:

17 inspections of watercress beds were made during the year.

MILK AND DAIRIES:

Number of Registered Distributors	9
Number of Registered Dairies	7
New registrations made during the year ...	1

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS 1949 AND 1950:

7 dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" were issued during the year.

15 supplementary licences were issued in respect of "Tuberculin", "Pasteurised" and "Sterilized" milk.

THE MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED AND STERILIZED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949-1953:

The Council exercises the functions of the County Council in connection with the issue of licences for pasteurising and sterilising establishments and 44 samples of milk were collected for examination.

There is one pasteurising establishment in the district licensed to retail Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested Milk (Pasteurised).

9 Dealers' licences authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised" were issued during the year.

1 Dealer's licence was issued authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilized".

SHOPS ACT:

Number on register	273
Number of inspections	16

8 Certificates of Exemption respecting sanitary accommodation were issued.

FACTORIES ACT:

Number on Register	148
Inspections made	4

One Certificate was issued regarding Means of Escape in case of Fire.

SCRAP METAL MERCHANTS:

Two dealers are registered under Section 86 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

Inspections made	21
Inspections made in connection with food poisoning	7

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT:

No action was necessary under Section 50 of this Act.

RODENT CONTROL:

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The following summary shows the work carried out during the twelve months ending 31st December, 1959. A total of 3,174 visits and inspections were made.

	TYPES OF PROPERTY		
	Dwelling houses	All other including business premises	Agricultural premises
No. of properties in the district	8098	1158	843
No. of properties inspected as a result of:			
(a) Notification	155	32	69
(b) Survey under the Act	2169	117	307
No. of inspections made by Rodent Operative including re-inspections ...	2557	179	438
No. of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:—			
(a) Rats — Major infestations	—	1	18
Rats — Minor infestations	518	45	198
(b) Mice — Major infestations	—	—	12
Mice — Minor infestations	123	16	139

The Workable Area Committee continued to meet for the discussion of rodent control problems. The area covered by the Committee consists of the districts of Bournemouth County Borough, Christchurch Borough, Lymington Borough, New Forest Rural District and Ringwood and Fordingbridge Rural District.

SERVICES ADMINISTERED BY COUNCIL:

Service	Visits made
Refuse Collection and Disposal	255
Street Cleansing	15
Ringwood Sewerage	68
Fordingbridge Sewerage	90
Public Conveniences	82
Cattle Pound	9
Car Parks	40
Ditching	12
Street Name Plates	39
Burton and Winkton Sewerage	2
Miscellaneous	25

SEWERAGE:

RINGWOOD SEWERAGE:

Effluent disposal by land irrigation at the disposal works continues to be difficult. The scheme for reconstruction and enlargement of the works remains in the preparatory stage.

A 1,200ft. extension of the sewer along the westerly end of Northfield Road was carried out at a cost of some £4,000.

Three lengths of new sewer constructed by private developers (Redwood Close, Meadow Close and Orchard Way) were taken over as public sewers.

During the year 52 premises were connected to the sewers. The total number of premises connected at the end of the year was 1,465 including 402 Council Houses, after making allowance for cottages disconnected as a result of demolition.

The estimated daily dry weather flow at the Bickerley Pumping Station was 173,000 gallons; following the heavy rainfall and snow in January the daily flow increased to 395,000 gallons.

FORDINGBRIDGE SEWERAGE:

The sewers, pumping stations and disposal works have been satisfactorily maintained.

During the year sixteen premises were connected to the sewers making a total at 31st December, 1959, of 565 including 188 Council Houses.

The estimated daily dry weather flow was 60,000 gallons; following the flood period in January the daily flow increased to 260,000 gallons.

One length of new sewer constructed by a private developer (St. George's Road) was taken over as a public sewer.

IBSLEY SEWERAGE:

The sewage disposal works have been efficiently maintained.

BURTON AND WINKTON:

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government agreed to the provision of sewers at the Whitehayes Estate in advance of the comprehensive scheme for Burton and Winkton so as to enable completion of sewer laying before the work of making up the roads was commenced by the County Council.

BRANSGORE AND THORNEYHILL:

The Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a scheme for the sewerage of Bransgore and Thorneyhill and to submit a report thereon together with plans and estimates of cost.

SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE:

BRANSGORE:

Surface water drainage problems in Bransgore were discussed with the County Council. In view of the Government White Paper on Land Drainage published in December indicating that new legislation would be introduced to enable local authorities to deal with such problems, the Council resolved to defer further consideration for the time being.

PUBLIC HEALTH (DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES) ACT, 1937:

The Chrome Plating Plant at Wellworthy's, Ringwood, continues to be well maintained. Samples of the effluent are collected periodically for chemical analysis and this has at all times complied with the standards imposed by the Council.

Six visits were made in connection with this effluent.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL:

The Council undertakes a combined collection of household and unburnable refuse weekly in the lighting areas of Ringwood and Fordingbridge. A collection of unburnable refuse only is carried out monthly in the remainder of the district. Receptacles have to be placed outside the premises as near as practicable to the roadway along which the collection vehicle proceeds.

The Council approved a scheme to include ashes in the unburnable refuse collected monthly and this came into operation early in 1960.

Dustbins are collected from houses where the occupants produce a certificate of incapacity.

The refuse collection vehicles covered a total mileage of 23,383 during the year compared with 22,379 for 1958.

The following summary shows the estimated amount of refuse collected throughout the district during the past seven years:—

Year		Verwood Road Dump	Sandleheath Dump	Total
1959	...	14,137 cu. yds.	5,102 cu. yds.	19,239
1958	...	13,125 „ „	4,655 „ „	17,780
1957	...	11,846 „ „	4,641 „ „	16,487
1956	...	11,593 „ „	4,643 „ „	16,236
1955	...	10,467 „ „	4,355 „ „	14,822
1954	...	9,697 „ „	4,127 „ „	13,824
1953	...	8,946 „ „	3,819 „ „	12,765

The progressive and unprecedented increase in the number of new houses in the district rendered impossible the completion of all collections on specified days and it became necessary to purchase an additional freighter and to engage three new men.

The new 16/18 cu. yd. Shelvoke and Drewry Fore and Aft tipping freighter was delivered in December and put into commission at the beginning of 1960.

The following schedule shows collection days throughout the district:—

WEEKLY SERVICE:

Lighting Area of the Parish of Ringwood:

Addison Square, Beechcroft Lane, Bickerley, Broadshard Lane, Carvers Lane, Christchurch Road, The Close, College Road, Collins Lane, Coniston Road, Coxstone Lane, Deweys Lane, Duck Island Lane, Fairlie Estate, Fairlie Park, Fieldway, Fridays Cross, Gipsy Lane, Gorley Road, Hampton Drive, High Street, Hightown Road from	Every Monday
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WEEKLY SERVICE—*Contd.***Lighting Area of the Parish of Ringwood.**

Christchurch Road to Parsonage Barn Lane, Highfield Avenue, Highfield Drive, Highfield Road, Hurst Corner, Kings Arms Lane, Kingsburys Lane, Link Road, London Tavern Triangle, Lumby Drive, Lynes Lane, Market Place, Meeting House Lane, Meadow Road, Middleton Road, Middle Lane, Morant Road, Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant Lane, New Road, Moortown, New Street, Northfield Road, North Poulner Road, Northumberland Court, Nursery Road, Quomp, Riverside, Salisbury Road, School Lane, Seymour Road, Star Lane, Strides Lane, Southampton Road from Fridays Cross to Mount Pleasant, Southampton Road from Mount Pleasant to Eastfield Lane (north side only), Southfield, Top Lane, West Street, Woodstock Lane.

Every Monday

Lighting Area of the Parish of Ringwood:

Cadogan Road, Cloughs Road, Eastfield Lane, East View Road, Gravel Lane, Hurst Road, Hightown Road from Parsonage Barn Lane to Eastfield Lane, Hiltom Road, Manor Road, Merryweather Estate, Poplar Close, Parsonage Barn Lane, Queensway, Redwood Close, Southampton Road from Mount Pleasant to Eastfield Lane (south side only), Wessex Estate, Wessex Road, Westbury Road, Winston Way.

Every Tuesday

Lighting Area of the Parish of Fordingbridge:

Albion Road, Alexandra Road, Ashford Road, Back Street, The Bartons, Bowerwood Road, Bridge Street, Church Street, Green Lane, High Street, Horseport, Jubilee Close, Jubilee Road, Lower Bartons, Market Place, Park Road, Pennys Lane, Picket Close, Provost Street, Roundhill, Salisbury Road, Salisbury Street, Shaftesbury Street, Southampton Road, Station Road, St. George's Road, The Square, Victoria Road, Waverley Road, Whitsbury Road.

Every
Wednesday

MONTHLY SERVICE (unburnable refuse only):

In every month

Parish of Ellingham, including the areas of Blashford, Highwood, Linford, Linwood, Rockford and Shobley ...

1st Tuesday

Parish of Harbridge and Ibsley, including the area of Bleak Hill, Furze Hill, Harbridge Green, Ibsley, Mockbeggar, Somerley, South Gorley and Turner ...

2nd Tuesday

Parish of Ringwood (non-lighting area), (part) comprising the areas of Hangersley, Hightown, Poulner and North Poulner ...

3rd Tuesday

Parish of Ringwood (non-lighting area) (part) comprising the areas of Bisterne, Crow, Crow Hill, Kingston and Sandford ...

4th Tuesday

Parish of Fordingbridge (non-lighting area) (part) comprising the areas of Bickton, Blissford, Frogham, Furze-hill, Hucklesbrook, Ogdens, and Redbrook ...

1st Wednesday

MONTHLY SERVICE—*Contd.***In every month**

Parish of Fordingbridge (non-lighting area) (part) and the Parish of Rockbourne (part) comprising the areas of Burgate, Sandleheath and all that part of the parish of Rockbourne south of Rockbourne Lane comprising the areas of Brickhill, The Marsh, Sandleheath and West Park, Midgham, Ashford Road, Bowerwood Road ...	2nd Wednesday
Parish of Fordingbridge (non-lighting area) (part) comprising the area of Hungerford, Hyde and North Gorley	3rd Wednesday
Parish of Fordingbridge (non-lighting area) (part) comprising the areas of Godshill and Stuckton	4th Wednesday
Parishes of St. Leonards and St. Ives (part) Hurn and Sopley (part) comprising the parish of Hurn and all that part of the parish of Sopley west of the River Avon and in the parish of St. Leonards and St. Ives: Ashley, Ashley Drive Estate, Ashley Heath, Avon Castle, Horton Road, Hurn Road, Laurel Road, Lions Lane, Matchams, Railway Drive, St. Leonards Hill, Struan Estate, Woodlands Way and Woolsbridge Road	1st Thursday
Parishes of Martin, Rockbourne, Whitsbury and Damerham excluding that part of the parish of Rockbourne south of Rockbourne Lane comprising Brickhill, The Marsh, Sandleheath and West Park	2nd Thursday
Parishes of Christchurch East (part) and Sopley (part) comprising in the parish of Christchurch East, the areas of Beckley, Brangsgore, Godwinscroft, Hinton, Holmsley South, Neacroft, Thorneyhill, Walkford and Waterditch and in the parish of Sopley, Betsy Lane, Burnt House Lane, Cuckoo Hill, Derritt Lane east of New Barn Bridge, Ringwood Road, West Road, Brangsgore and Shirley Common	3rd Thursday
Parish of Sopley (part). The parish of Sopley excluding all that part west of the River Avon, Betsy Lane, Burnt House Lane, Cuckoo Hill, all Derritt Lane east of New Barn Bridge, Ringwood Road, West Road, Brangsgore and Shirley Common	4th Thursday
Parish of St. Leonards and St. Ives (part) comprising the areas of A.31 from Horton Road to County Boundary, Beech Lane, Boundary Lane, Braeside Road, The Close, Foxbury Road, Glenives Close, Grange Road, Pinewood Road, Post Office Lane, Racecourse Heath Estate, St. Ives End Lane, Sandy Lane, School Lane and Wayside Road	1st Friday
Parishes of Hale, Woodgreen and Breamore	2nd Friday
Parish of Christchurch East (part) comprising the areas of South Middle and North Bockhampton, Burton, Holfleet, Staple Cross, Winkton and Winkton Common ...	3rd Friday
Parish of Burley	4th Friday

STREET CLEANSING:

The Council carries out street cleansing in respect of some 12½ miles of publicly repairable roads in Ringwood and 4½ miles in Fordingbridge. The County Council contribute towards the cost; the road classifications and mileages are as follows:—

Trunk Road	1.48 miles
Class I Road	2.96 „
Class II Roads	1.66 „
Class III Roads	3.27 „
Unclassified	7.60 „

It was necessary to engage an additional road sweeper to enable this work to be maintained satisfactorily.

LITTER RECEPTACLES:

Since the operation of the Litter Act, 1958, fifty-one prosecutions have been instituted within the County.

Eight receptacles in Ringwood Shopping Centre and four in Fordingbridge are provided and maintained by the Council. In addition ten have been provided at lay-byes and bus draw-ins — seven of these by the County Council.

STAFF — MANUAL WORKERS:

Labour difficulties persisted throughout the year. The Foreman, M. Haynes, tendered his resignation in May after eighteen years service but died within a few weeks without enjoying his well-earned retirement.

COUNCIL DEPOT:

The five refuse collecting vehicles and four vans are garaged and serviced here. During the year the second stage of the scheme for reconstructing and improving the depot was put in hand, including the construction of a garage and workshop block, provision of workshop equipment and construction of a three-bedroom house for the Foreman.

The Council was able to purchase two small garden plots adjoining this land and also the property, No. 74 Christchurch Road, with bakehouse and garden in rear, thus ensuring provision for the future development of the depot.

SALVAGE:

The salvage scheme was successfully maintained throughout the year and sales produced £1,129.

The total sum paid to the workmen for the year under the incentive bonus scheme amounted to £88 8s. 5d.

Details of the salvage sold are shown in the following summary:

	tons	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.	No.	£	s.	d.
WASTEPAPER								
Newspaper	39	8	2			140	7	9
Books and Magazines ...	24	9				73	7	0
Baled wastepaper	50	2	1			275	12	4½
Unbaled wastepaper ...	15	14				58	15	0
Cardboard	8	12				50	0	0
Meal Bags	1	3				5	15	0
Mixed wastepaper	32	19	3			79	9	3
TEXTILES								
Rags	7	7				117	12	0
Carpet		5					15	0
Sacking		6				1	4	0
METALS								
Brass		15	0	19		56	1	5½
Copper		5	1	10		30	8	5½
Aluminium		15	0	13		55	5	8½
Lead		6	2	12		16	9	10¾
Lead wire		2	1	23		5	0	10¼
Light iron	2	9	2			17	6	6
Steel scrap	3	12				22	16	3
Pewter		1	1	18		13	15	0½
Copper wire		10	0	26		72	16	7½
Battery Lead		1	0	0		1	11	0
Batteries		1	1	0	10	4	13	0
Heavy Iron	4	10	1	7		29	11	6
Zinc				25			6	8½
	193	17	0	13	10	£1,129	0	4½

Salvage sales since inauguration in 1941 are shown below:—

				£
1941	...	...	...	414
1942	...	...	...	1,208
1943	...	...	...	1,089
1944	...	...	...	908
1945	...	...	...	574
1946	...	...	...	495
1947	...	...	...	342
1948	...	...	...	949
1949	...	...	...	740
1950	...	...	...	608
1951	...	...	...	1,674
1952	...	...	...	937
1953	...	...	...	572
1954	...	...	...	669
1955	...	...	...	1,280
1956	...	...	...	1,249
1957	...	...	...	1,135
1958	...	...	...	1,079
1959	...	...	...	1,129

The following summary shows the variations in prices of waste paper over the last nine years:—

		Baled waste paper per ton	Unbaled waste paper per ton	Books & magazines per ton	Newspapers per ton
Dec. 1951	...	£16 0s.	£13 0s.	£16 15s.	£18 5s.
„ 1952	...	5 10s.	3 0s.	6 0s.	6 10s.
„ 1953	...	4 10s.	1 10s.	3 10s.	3 10s.
„ 1954	...	6 0s.	3 10s.	6 0s.	6 0s.
„ 1955	...	8 0s.	5 0s.	7 10s.	8 0s.
„ 1956	...	6 10s.	3 10s.	4 10s.	5 5s.
„ 1957	...	6 10s.	3 0s.	4 10s.	6 0s.
„ 1958	...	5 10s.	3 0s.	3 0s.	3 10s.
„ 1959	...	5 10s.	3 0s.	3 0s.	3 10s.

CAR PARKS:

The resurfacing of the Meeting House Lane frontage of the Ringwood Car Park was completed during the year; work on that part fronting on to Gravel Lane was deferred pending the erection of the new Public Conveniences. The present parking accommodation proved insufficient and the Council agreed to acquire part of the adjoining land for the purpose of extensions.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES:

The cash collected indicated that over 1,200 persons made use of these conveniences every week during the summer.

It proved necessary to arrange for extra daily cleaning of the ladies' conveniences at Ringwood during the summer months.

A tender was accepted in July for the construction of the new conveniences at the Fordingbridge Car Park but the contractor has been unable to commence the work. No satisfactory tender could be obtained for the proposed conveniences at the Ringwood Car Park.

CATTLE POUND:

A total of eighty animals was impounded by the Police during the year. The following summary shows the impoundings since 1954:—

1959	...	...	80
1958	...	...	111
1957	...	...	107
1956	...	...	89
1955	...	...	101
1954	...	...	53

The total fees collected in respect of the eighty animals amounted to £64. The impounding fees are £2 per owner for each impounding irrespective of the number impounded.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT, PETROLEUM MIXTURES AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM:

Number of premises on register	...	...	...	112
Number of petroleum spirit licences	...	...	...	107 (259,350 gallons)
Number of petroleum mixture licences	...	...	...	7 (8,750 gallons)
Number of carbide of calcium licences	...	...	...	1 (6 cwt.)
Number of new applications during the year	...	...	...	1 (500 gallons)
Inspections made	...	...	...	190

BUILDING BYELAWS:

PLANS

Number of plans received	...	...	...	730
Number of plans approved	...	...	...	680
Number of plans rejected	...	...	...	28
Number of plans no objection	...	...	...	7
Number withdrawn or exempted	...	...	...	13
Number of relaxations	...	...	...	2

Classification of the deposited plans is as follows:—

326	plans in respect of dwellings
112	plans in respect of structural alterations and additions
134	plans in respect of garages
72	plans in respect of drainage works
26	plans in respect of agricultural buildings
17	plans in respect of conversions
43	miscellaneous

Inspections:—

Foundations	417
Oversite	360
Damp proof courses ...	373
Water tests to drains ...	495
Completed works	543
Sewer connections	48
Miscellaneous inspections	1,068
	<hr/>
	3,304

Contraventions:—

Contravention of Building Byelaws ...	138
Number of Statutory Notices served:	
Section 65	6
Section 39	1
Section 290	1
Number of informal notices served ...	117

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings in respect of any of these contraventions.

SOIL AND SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE IN CONNECTION WITH NEW DEVELOPMENT

The Building Byelaws Committee considered my report relating to the large area of residential development occurring in the district on land with subsoils of a low porosity. The report emphasized the serious drainage problems likely to arise due to the very large amount of urban type development taking place in the parish of St. Leonards and St. Ives.

The Committee resolved

- (i) that future proposals for Estate Development on land where sewers are not available, and where the sub-soil is other than gravel, should provide for sealed cesspools or, alternatively, that Estate Developers be encouraged to provide sewage treatment plants rather than individual tanks and to make a contribution to the Council to cover the cost of maintenance for a period of ten years; and
- (ii) that in all such cases satisfactory surface water drainage be insisted upon with an ultimate outfall to a river or stream.

The Committee recommended the Public Health Committee to give urgent consideration to the sewerage of St. Leonards and St. Ives.

NEW STREET BYELAWS:

Five plans were received and fifty-eight inspections made in connection with works of laying out new streets.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING:

Development applications are dealt with by my department together with the work of maintaining the Planning Register and Planning Index Maps. Enquirers are advised on planning matters generally and inspections made on behalf of the Planning Authority to whom reports are furnished on known contraventions.

The delegation of Planning functions on terms proposed by the County Council was considered and rejected as being inadequate.

During the year 676 visits and inspections were made.

ESTATE MAINTENANCE:

At the 31st December, 1959, the Council had a total of 1,097 occupied dwellings, made up as follows:—

Permanent Houses	1,014
Prefabricated houses	50
Converted huts (family units) ...	33
	<hr/>
	1,097

The Council's permanent houses and prefabricated bungalows are sited as follows:—

PARISH	LOCALITY	Traditional	Prefabricated
Breamore	St. George's Cottages	4	
Burley	Campden House	2	
	Warnes Lane	35	6
	Chapel Haye	6	
Christchurch East	Jopps Corner, Burton	7	
	Footners Lane, Burton	14	6
	Burton Green	4	
	Neacroft	4	
	Westbury Close, Bransgore ...	32	
	Thorneyhill	14	
	Meyrick Close	18	
	Sandy Plot	56	
Damerham	West Park Lane	23	
	South End	4	
	High Street	2	
Ellingham	Blashford	4	
Fordingbridge	The Bartons	23	
	Lower Bartons	26	
	St. George's Road	12	
	Salisbury Road	8	
	Waverley Road	26	
	Pennys Lane	8	13
	Jubilee Close	16	
	Picket Close	54	
	Tinkers Cross	2	
	Roundhill	2	
Hale	St. George's Cottages	14	
Harbridge & Ibsley	Brookside	6	

PARISH	LOCALITY	Traditional	Prefabricated
Hurn	Moors Close	54	
Martin	Townsend	20	
	St. George's Cottages	12	
Ringwood	Hurst Road	42	
	Fairlie Park	36	
	Fairlie Estate	3	
	Manor Road	35	9
	Cloughs Road	16	
	Merryweather	24	
	Eastfield Lane	1	4
	Hightown	8	
	Wessex Estate	92	
	Queens Way	71	
	Winston Way	48	
	Moortown	10	
	66, 68, 70 & 72 Christchurch Road	4	
	Poplar Way	12	
Rockbourne	Mintys Hill	6	
	Bourne Cottages	6	
	Whipps Hill	2	
Sopley	Avon	4	
	Ripley	2	
	Burnt House Lane, Bransgore ...	20	
	Derritt Lane, Bransgore		6
St. Leonards & St. Ives	Ashley	4	
	Woolsbridge Road	16	
	Glenives Close and The Close ...	10	6
	Old School	1	
Whitsbury	Lower Grove	11	
Woodgreen	Hill Close	12	
	St. George's Cottages	6	

The maintenance of these estates entailed a total of 3,492 visits and inspections during the year as follows:—

Permanent houses	2,962
Prefabricated bungalows ...	35
Converted huts	364
Other Council property ...	6
Sewage disposal	125
	<hr/>
	3,492

At the end of the year the position regarding this Council's occupied family units in converted huts was as follows:

Holmsley (Christchurch East Parish) ...	16
Ibsley (Harbridge and Ibsley Parish) ...	17

During the year 22 units were taken out of service and 19 units demolished; 2 hutted camp sites were cleared; 20 new Council Houses were completed and occupied.

Consideration was given to the question of acquiring and bringing up to modern standards some of the old cottages at Breamore instead of building new Council Houses. Two empty cottages were inspected by members of the Housing Committee but in each case the cost of reconditioning to modern standards was considered to be uneconomical.

The new House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, makes provision for Grant Aid to Local Authorities for improvement of pre-war houses and it was decided to proceed with improvement works to 68 such houses not already modernised.

A tour of housing estates spread over four evenings in July was made by members of the Council; 36 estates were visited covering a total of 842 dwellings.

The Council found it necessary to give Notice to Quit to five tenants with badly neglected gardens; this action had the desired effect and eviction proceedings were not necessary.

The construction of the new housing estate at Poplar Way, Ringwood, has progressed satisfactorily; this estate will provide the following accommodation:—

6	4-bedroomed houses
20	3-bedroomed houses
30	2-bedroomed houses
10	2-bedroomed bungalows
16	1-bedroomed flats

These dwellings are for re-housing occupiers of requisitioned huts and condemned cottages.

A survey of housing estates revealed that 122 garages were required by tenants in addition to 33 already provided. On one estate (Moors Close) consisting of 34 houses, 12 2-bedroomed flats and 8 1-bedroomed flats, 22 tenants required garage accommodation. A scheme was approved for erecting 98 Woolway garages on various estates including 22 at Moors Close and 9 at Picket Close.

Surveys of sites in Christchurch East Parish for the erection of permanent Council Houses resulted in numerous sites at Thorneyhill, Bransgore, Burton and Winkton being considered by the Housing Committee. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of a site for 8 houses near All Saints Church, Thorneyhill, subject to Town Planning consent; this was refused and the Council decided to appeal against the Planning Authority's decision. The Council agreed to acquire for aged persons' accommodation a site at Green Lane, Fordingbridge, of about half an acre on which stand cottages the subject of Demolition Orders and to acquire a site of 10 acres opposite the Crown Copse, Bransgore, with additional land for Sewage Disposal Works adjoining the River Mude.

The Ringwood United Charities offered to sell to the Council part of the gardens of the Almshouses for the erection of aged persons' dwellings. The Council is proceeding with the purchase of this site upon which it is hoped to erect some 14 units of accommodation and one pair of houses for occupation by tenants prepared to act as part-time wardens.

63 inspections were made in connection with housing sites and site works.

As a result of a disastrous fire in September a terrace of thatched cottages in Ringwood was gutted and seven families rendered homeless. The Council assisted in the immediate temporary re-housing where necessary and in two instances condemned cottages were used for this purpose.

A "Tenants Handbook" was produced and copies circulated to some thousand tenants. This contains useful information covering a wide field and gives guidance to tenants in matters ranging from the prevention of frozen water pipes to gardening.

The Council agreed a three-year scheme for planting suitable ornamental standard trees inside front gardens of selected houses on those estates lacking in natural amenities. 112 trees were planted on 8 estates. Tenants co-operated by doing the planting themselves and were provided with appropriate trees, stakes, ties and detailed instructions.

The Housing Committee considered the unsatisfactory position regarding grass cutting on numerous estates where the responsibility for this work is shared between the County Council and the District Council. It was agreed that the District Council should undertake the mowing of grass areas on all estates subject to reimbursement by the County Council in respect of those estates for which they are responsible.

The main electricity installation on the hutted camp sites at Ibsley and Holmsley gave rise to frequent breakdowns caused by defective lead in cables and was found to be in a dangerous condition necessitating an expenditure of over £115 to render the installation safe.

HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT SMALL DWELLINGS (ACQUISITION) ACTS

169 visits and inspections were made in connection with the total of 107 dwellings constructed or purchased with assistance under these Acts since 1941.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS:

It was found necessary to institute proceedings in one instance only as follows:—

Weetabix Ltd.	Section 2, Food and Drugs Act, 1955	Fine £25 and £10 10s. costs
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STAFF:

Mr. I. E. Moore terminated his appointment as Chief Clerk and Mr. G. W. Maddox was appointed in his place and commenced duties on the 6th July, 1959.

CONCLUSION:

I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Council, Mr. F. W. Pilbrow and Dr. D. J. N. McNab for their confidence and support and the staff of my department for their co-operation throughout the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

RONALD A. UPSTONE,

Chief Public Health Inspector and Surveyor.